

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CPR-02 SCA-01 VO-03 A-01 DRC-01 NEA-10 /061 W

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R 121644Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2950

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS UR CGEN (EPELMAN, POLINA)

SUBJ: DENIAL OF ACCESS TO AMCONGEN LENINGRAD

1. AMCONSUL LENINGRAD INFORMED EMBASSY OCTOBER 10 THAT SOVIET CITIZEN POLINA EPELMAN (REP LIST XV) WAS PREVENTED FROM ENTERING CONGEN SAME DAY FOR APPOINTMENT ON VISA CASE WITH VICE CONSUL SCHORER. ACCORDING TO CONGEN, EPELMAN WAS "APPREHENDED BY MILITIA ABOUT 75 YARDS FROM AMCONSUL BUILDING AND FORCIBLY TAKEN TO WAITING MILITIA TRUCK." CONGEN HAS SENT NOTE TO LENINGRAD DIPLOMATIC AGENCY CONCERNING INCIDENT.

2. THIS IS SECOND DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS TO EPELMAN, WHO WAS ALSO APPREHENDED IN FRONT CONGEN ON SEPT 7. IN EARLIER INCIDENT, SHE WAS DRAGGED OFF AND DETAINED ONE HOUR BY MILITIA BEFORE BEING RELEASED. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN OTHER, LESS SERIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH CONSULAR ACCESS REPORTED BY CONGEN.

3. EMBASSY HAS INFORMED AMCONSUL LENINGRAD (BY UNCLASSIFIED TELEGRAM) THAT AS FOLLOW-UP TO CONGEN PROTEST IT PLANS PROTEST TO MFA DENIAL OF ACCESS TO CONGEN TO SOVIET CITIZEN WITH LEGITIMATE CONSULAR BUSINESS.

4. PROPOSED NOTE, WHICH CHIEF CONSULAR SECTION HOPES TO PRESENT MFA PROTOCOL DIVISION EARLY NEXT WEEK, MAKES CLEAR EMBASSY STRONGLY PROTESTS "THIS BLATANT INTERFER-

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ENCE BY SOVIET MILITIAMEN WITH CONSULAR OPERATIONS" OF

AMCONGEN. NOTE WILL CALL ON MFA TO ENSURE IN ACCORD WITH ARTICLE 4 OF US-SOVIET CONSULAR CONVENTION THAT NECESSARY MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS CAN CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES WITHOUT INTERFERENCE OR OBSTRUCTION.

5. PROPOSED EMBASSY NOTE FURTHER POINTS OUT EPELMAN IS ON REP LIST AND USG SUPPORTS HER EFFORTS TO IMMIGRATE TO HER FAMILY. NOTE REQUESTS MFA TO ENSURE THAT EPELMAN AND ALL OTHERS WHO WISH TO VISIT AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS IN USSR ON LEGITIMATE BUSINESS ARE ACCORDED UNOBSTRUCTED ACCESS IN ACCORD WITH INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE AND US-SOVIET CONSULAR CONVENTION.

6. FOR DEPT'S INFO, CHARGE RECEIVED LETTER FROM REPRESENTATIVE SIDNEY YATES IN APRIL (REPORTED MOSCOW 4588) WHICH INDICATED THAT DESTINATION OF MRS. EPELMAN AND DAUGHTER IS ISRAEL. LETTER STATED THAT MRS. EPELMAN'S HUSBAND "DEFECTED" FROM USSR AND IS NOW ON FACULTY OF BEER-SHEVA UNIVERSITY. DEPARTMENT (STATE 085615) INCULDED EPELMAN'S ON MOST RECENT REP LIST DUE TO STRONG INTEREST OF SENATOR KENNEDY IN

THIS CASE AND INSISTENCE BY KENNEDY STAFF THAT EPELMAN ACTUALLY APPLIED FOR SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION TO JOIN RELATIVES IN US.

7. MRS. EPELMAN HAS SENT NEW APPEAL TO SENATOR KENNEDY, WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED TO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY US TOURISTS WHOM SHE ENCOUNTERED AT LENINGRAD SYNAGOGUE. LETTER BEING POUCHED TO DEPT EUR/QJV BY DS-4.  
EXEMPT DUBS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 FEB 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DENIAL OF ACCESS TO AMCONGEN LENINGRAD  
**TAGS:** CVIS, CGEN, UR, (EPELMAN, POLINA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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